

To run October 14-November 2

Dear Provider:

The week of October 20–26, 2001, is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

In recognition of Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, the Department of Community Health and the Georgia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (GCLPPP) want to remind Health Check Providers that it is Federal Law that all Medicaid and Peachcare children be screened for lead. Children must have a blood lead screening done at the ages of 12 and 24 months, and between 36 and 72 months of age if the child has no record of prior screening (source: CMS, previously known as HCFA).

According to the CDC, children enrolled in Medicaid/Peachcare are at a higher risk of having an elevated Blood Lead Level (bll). However, screening rates for this high risk population are low. Screening helps identify children with elevated BLL's. This ultimately gives children an opportunity to receive appropriate treatment or environmental intervention. Georgia is required to annually report to the Federal Government compliance of this law. In order to capture each child screened, it is critical that coding be accurate. All providers who use the Chatham County Lead Laboratory must use Code Y0801. Providers who use any other lab, including the Albany Regional Lab, must document this by using Procedure Code 36415. The department is encouraging providers to adhere to the federal screening requirements, which are endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Only the providers who use the Chatham County Lead Laboratory will be reimbursed. Albany Regional Lab supplies specimen containers, documentation forms, and mailing supplies to all Health Check providers, at no charge, who wish to use the Albany Regional Laboratory.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact GCLPPP at (404) 463-3754.

Sincerely,

Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Medical Assistance